

WHISTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM

Annual Report

BY

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Rural District,

FOR THE YEAR 1917.

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT.

As was the case last year, an interim report is only required to be presented for this year. The usual tables of sickness and mortality are again left out, together with certain other details usually given in annual reports.

The Registrar-General has again furnished me with a statement of the number of births and deaths belonging to the district, made out in the same form as that of last year, with two separate estimates of the population as before.

The one for the death rate is an estimate of the civilian population in 1917, and is only 158 in excess of the number of persons who applied to the District Council for sugar cards during the year. This number of applicants, which we may almost take as a census of the district, does not include inhabitants of public institutions in the district, such as: the Workhouse, Asylum Annexe, and the two Sanatoria, whereas, previous to last year, these inhabitants were included in our estimates of the population of the district, and they were also included in the Census return for 1911. This should be taken into consideration in comparing the rates of the last two years with those of former years.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT, 1917.

Causes of Death (Civilians Only).		Males.	Females.
	All Causes	155	115
1	Enteric Fever	1	1
2	Small Pox	—	—
3	Measles	—	—
4	Scarlet Fever	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	2	2
6	Diphtheria and Croup	3	3
7	Influenza	5	—
8	Erysipelas	—	—
9	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	9
10	Tuberculous Meningitis	1	—
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	—
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	9
13	Rheumatic Fever	—	1
14	Meningitis	—	1
15	Organic Heart Disease	11	10
16	Bronchitis	18	14
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	22	10
18	Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3
19	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	3	1
20	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—
21	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
21A	Alcoholism	—	—
22	Nephritis and Bright's Disease	8	3
23	Puerperal Fever	—	—
24	Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever ...	—	3
25	Congenital Debility, &c.	7	5
26	Violence, apart from Suicide	4	4
27	Suicide	—	1
28	Other defined diseases	43	34
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	1
Deaths of Infants under one year of age		22	14
Total Births		183	191
Legitimate		182	184
Illegitimate		1	7
Population—For Birth Rate		20,482	
,, —For Death Rate		18,374	

These statistics again do not quite agree with the returns supplied to me by the Registrars of Births and Deaths each month. The total number of deaths in the above return is 24 in excess of those supplied to me. This may possibly be accounted for by the Registrar-General allocating to our district the deaths of certain persons in the public institutions in the district, whose addresses prior to entry into these institutions, were not sufficiently defined. Where the previous address is stated to be unknown, I have already included them in my list, but there are many other cases, especially from the Asylum Annexe, where the addresses given are very indefinite, or are not the usual places of residence prior to entry into the institution, such as Naval Hospital, Plymouth; H.M. Prison, Liverpool; Warrington Workhouse, various Asylums, &c. There are 67 such indefinite addresses given in the returns from this institution alone during the last year.

The causes of death, also, do not correspond with those supplied to me previously, some of the differences being considerable, e.g., under the heading violence, apart from suicide, the table gives 4 males and 4 females, while I get 8 males and 3 females; under pulmonary tuberculosis, the table above gives 21 deaths, while I have only received 17. Under bronchitis, 32 to my 28, and the same for pneumonia, while from heart disease I get 27 against 21 in the table.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age is one in excess of those returned to me.

Taking the Registrar-General's Return, we get a death rate of 14.69 on an estimated population of 18,374, and a birth rate of 18.26 on the population of 20,482, the illegitimates being 1.87 per cent. of the total births, and the infantile mortality rate 96.5. The death rate is a fraction higher than that for England and Wales as a whole, and the birth rate is also slightly higher.

The death rate is higher than that of last year, while the birth rate is considerably lower.

The infantile mortality rate is higher than last year's, and is about the average for the last five years. It is just below that of England and Wales as a whole.

The death rates from the chief Zymotic diseases are:—Enteric Fever, 0.11; Measles, 0.00; Scarlet Fever, 0.00; Whooping Cough, 0.22; and Diphtheria, 0.33. With the exception of Measles and Scarlet Fever, these are in excess of those for England and Wales generally.

Three hundred and twenty-three births were notified during the year, while 422 were registered, 49 of which occurred in the Whiston Institution.

The notifications received during the year were:—

Diphtheria	35
Erysipelas	5
Scarlet Fever	68
Enteric Fever	2
Measles and German Measles	134
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14
Other Tubercular Diseases	3
Poliomyelitis	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Anthrax	1
Total	264

The case of Anthrax was contracted at a patent manure works in the district, and I made a special report on the same for the Home Office and Local Government Board. I also made a special report on the case of Poliomyelitis for the Local Government Board and the County Medical Officer of Health.

The man with Anthrax was taken into a hospital outside the district, and made a good recovery.

The cases removed to the Sanatorium from our own district were:—

Diphtheria	26
Scarlet Fever	52
Enteric Fever	2
Total	80

In addition to these, 48 military cases, and 40 others, were admitted for treatment into the hospital, so that the staff has been kept busily employed all the year. Of those admitted from our own district, six died, four from diphtheria and two from enteric fever.

The number of notifications received is 188 less than in the previous year, Measles, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria all showing a considerable decline.

None of the elementary schools were ordered to be closed during the year for infectious diseases, but Whiston and Ditton Hall Schools were fumigated after infectious cases had been present.

The condition of the schools is generally satisfactory, as is also that of the bakehouses and slaughterhouses.

There are not so many private workshops in the district as formerly, several having suspended work owing to war conditions. They are mostly kept in a fair state. The factories are employing more female labour, and have made suitable provision for the same.

Many of the cowsheds are not kept as clean as they might be, although, as a rule, they are better than they formerly were, and we have a few in the district which might be taken as models.

With regard to scavenging, there has been some improvement, particularly in the district where the work is carried out by the Council's own men, and I hope that this system may be considerably extended in the near future. Not only is the work better done and much more easily supervised, but I believe there is a considerable saving in the expense.

It is also desirable that the number of privy middens should be greatly reduced. There are over 2,000 of these structures in the district, and there have been no conversions into the water carriage

system for over two years. As I have frequently pointed out, I consider this to be one of the chief sanitary requirements of the district, and I am convinced that the existence of so many of these insanitary structures, is responsible for a great deal of the sickness which prevails in the district, and indirectly of a number of deaths each year.

Even where they are constructed in the best manner, as they are in Knowsley, very few are properly looked after, and a great many of those examined contain nothing but a mass of liquid filth. When this is kept for months in the vicinity of a dwelling-house, in many cases even joining the house, it cannot help having a deleterious effect on the health of the inhabitants. In those townships where sewers are available, no privy should be allowed to exist.

A number of complaints have been received with regard to the emission of black smoke from a works outside our district. The Sanitary Inspector and myself have made a number of observations, and have found that a real nuisance exists. The owners have been communicated with, and have promised to remedy the nuisance, but so far there has been very little improvement.

In the month of August, a case of exposing unsound food for sale was brought to my notice. I had the food seized and taken before a J.P., who ordered its destruction. An action was brought against the shopkeeper, who was convicted and fined £2.

During the year, 137 notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector, and 219 nuisances were abated in consequence of these notices.

One hundred and one houses were disinfected after the occurrence of infectious diseases, besides the two schools mentioned above.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS (H. & T.P.A.).

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected 161

Number of dwelling-houses specially inspected under
Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909 72

Particulars of these inspections have been fully
recorded.

Number of dwelling-houses considered unfit for human
habitation 0

Number of representations to Authority 0

Number of Closing Orders made 0

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were
remedied without making Closing Orders 137

Number of dwelling-houses put into fit state after
making Closing Orders 0

Number of dwellinghouses demolished 5

General character of defects found to exist:—Foul privies and
ashpits, dampness, defective paving and drainage, and over-
crowding.

THOMAS U. MERCER.

MAY, 1918.

